Decentralization of Work in the Revenue Department.

No. R. 6185-233—L. R. 641-13-14, DATED 16TH DECEMBER 1916.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

GENERAL AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

READ—

The following communications on the subject of decentralization of work in the Revenue Department :—

(1) D. O. No. 177, dated the 18th April 1914, from Mr. K. Matthan, Deputy Commissioner, Shimoga District, forwarding a memorandum.

(2) Note by Mr. K. Srinivasa Rao, Retired Deputy Commissioner, receiv with his D. O. dated the 23rd April 1914.

(3) Correspondence ending with D. O. No. 9, dated 10th July 1916, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore.

Order No. R. 6185-233—L. R. 641-13-14, dated 16th December 1916.

(1) *Preliminary.*—The question of conferring increased powers and duties on the several classes of Revenue officers and thereby relieving the congestion of work in the offices of the controlling and appellate authorities, has, for some time past, been under the consideration of Government. Before proceeding to pass orders on the correspondence read above, the Government will review briefly the measures of decentralization effected in 1902, 1906 and 1907.

(2) *Review of the reforms effected in 1902, 1906 and 1907.*—The office of Revenue Commissioner was created in August 1902 for the more efficient control and supervision of the Revenue Department and by Regulation No. VI of 1906, (passed on 20th August 1906) the Revenue Commissioner was constituted the Chief Controlling Revenue Authority subject to Government. Certain additional powers in regard to the Revenue, Forest and Treasury administration and the disposal of certain periodical returns were subsequently assigned to him by the marginally noted orders (pages 5—15, Revenue Manual).

(1) G. P., dated 11th September 1906, No. R. 3105-44—L. R. 212-06-1.
(2) G. P., dated 31st October 1916, No. R. 4426-65—Ft. 86-06-1.
(3) G. P., dated 3rd November 1906, No. 3228-37—G. F. 134-06-1.
(4) G. P., dated 15th November 1906, No. R. 5042-80—L. R. 193-06-2.
(5) G. P., dated 2nd December 1907, No. R. 3432-41—G. F. 134-06-6.

3. *Measures of decentralization now effected.*—Owing to a general increase of work in all directions, there is much congestion in all the Revenue Offices and Government consider that it is necessary to decentralize authority in regard to the less important and routine matters of Revenue Administration and are therefore pleased to direct that certain additional powers and responsibilities should be given to Amildars, Sub-Divisional Assistant Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners as indicated below :—

(i) *Additional powers and duties to Amildars.*—The existing powers and duties of Amildars in regard to the disposal of lands, control over establishments and recovery of revenue, are contained chiefly in the marginally noted provisions of the Land Revenue Code, Land Revenue Rules and the Mysore Revenue Manual.

Land Revenue Code, Sections 10, 12, 58 and 71
Land Revenue Rules—3, 7, 41, 46, 95, 96 and 99.
Mysore Revenue Manual—Chapter VI.
Ruling under Land Revenue Rules 49 and 99 (*b*).
(Page 330, Revenue Manual.)

The Government trust that the powers which under Land Revenue Rule 3, can be delegated to Amildars by the Deputy Commissioners have been already delegated to all the Amildars, *ex-officio*, in every district and that if this is not the case in any district, the Revenue Commissioner will take the requisite action.

The following additional powers are now delegated to the Amildars:—

(*a*) Power to adopt the precautionary measures prescribed in Sections 146 to 149, Land Revenue Code, for the recovery of land revenue due to Government.

(*b*) Power to declare forfeiture of land for default of payment of land revenue, when the assessment of the lands in the holding concerned is less than Rs. 50.

(*c*) Power to order the transfer of registry under Sections 67, 68 and 69, Land Revenue Code.

(*d*) Power to grant in malnad taluks an extent not exceeding ten guntas of unassessed land (including gomal land) for building purposes finally.

(*e*) Power to confirm the sale of building sites when the sale proceeds do not exceed Rs. 25.

(*f*) The following powers of patronage and of disciplinary control over the Taluk Establishment:—

(1) To appoint, dismiss, suspend or otherwise punish all menial servants including dafadars.

(2) To fine up to a limit of Rs. 5 any member of the Taluk Establishment other than the Taluk Sheristadar.

(3) To grant leave to any member of the Taluk Establishment (including the establishments of travellers' bungalows under the Revenue Department and the Nala Manegars) other than the Sheristadar and to appoint substitutes for the absentees, provided that in the case of officials drawing Rs. 15 or more, the Amildar shall not grant leave, or make temporary arrangements for more than a month.

(4) To grant casual leave to Taluk Sheristadars when the Amildar is at headquarters and is in charge of the Treasury himself.

(5) To suspend village officers for a period not exceeding *one month* without reference to higher authority and to appoint substitutes.

(6) To grant leave to village officers up to three months and to appoint substitutes temporarily.

(NOTE.—All orders of appointment, punishment, etc., passed by an Amildar should be communicated within a week to the Deputy Commissioner through the Sub-Divisional Assistant Commissioner. Either of these officers may cancel the Amildar's order giving reasons therefor, the same being communicated to him.)

(*g*) The Deputy Commissioner may, in his discretion, delegate to any Amildar or Deputy Amildar the power to confirm sale of occupancy at a public auction in cases where an upset price for the occupancy has previously been fixed by the Deputy Commissioner and the final bid is not less than such upset price.

(ii) The following additional powers are delegated to Sub-Divisional Assistant Commissioners:—

(*a*) *Powers of patronage and disciplinary control over their own establishments and the Taluk establishments.*—(1) To appoint, suspend or dismiss all officials, excluding Shekdars, drawing pay not exceeding Rs. 25.

(2) To fine officials drawing a higher pay than Rs. 25 except the Taluk Sheristadar up to Rs. 5.

(3) To grant leave to any member of the establishment and to make temporary arrangements during such period provided that in the case of Taluk Sheristadars, the Assistant Commissioner shall not grant other than privilege leave for a period not exceeding one month at a time and that in the case of other officials drawing Rs. 25 and above, he shall not grant leave for more than six months.

(4) To order the transfer of officials except Taluk Sheristadar within their Sub-Divisions and of Shekdars with the approval of the Deputy Commissioner.

NOTE.—The Assistant Commissioner's orders in respect of the above matters should be communicated, within a week to the Deputy Commissioner, who may cancel them for specific reasons which should be communicated to the Assistant Commissioner.

(b) *Power under the Land Revenue Code and Land Revenue Rules.*—To confirm or set aside sales of land where the sale proceeds do not exceed Rs. 1,000.

(c) *Power under the Village Offices Regulation.*—To dismiss or remove a holder of a village office without previous reference to the Deputy Commissioner.

(iii) *The following additional powers are delegated to Deputy Commissioners.*—

(a) To assign land for communal purposes under Section 39 of the Land Revenue Code when survey operations are not in progress.

(b) To write off assessment on lands, acquired for public purposes under the sanction of Government.

(c) To write off demands made in error.

(d) To sanction refund of all sums (including departmental fines) collected by any department under their control, where it is clear that Government were not in the first instance or have since ceased to be entitled to such amounts, as for instance, when an original assessment, fine, etc., has been cancelled or reduced in appeal, all cases, in which there is any doubt, being referred to the Revenue Commissioner for sanction subject to a period of three years' limitation and provided the amount does not exceed Rs. 500.

(e) To appoint and transfer all officials in the district and subordinate offices drawing pay not exceeding Rs. 50 per mensem.

(f) To grant leave not exceeding three months to officials drawing pay up to Rs. 100 per mensem and to make the necessary acting arrangements.

(g) To make proposals half-yearly for the transfer of Amildars within the district.

NOTE.—The Revenue Commissioner will review these proposals and submit them in a consolidated form to Government half-yearly.

(4) *Drafts of consequential amendments.*—The Revenue Commissioner is requested to submit drafts of amendments rendered necessary in the Land Revenue Code and the Standing Orders in the Mysore Revenue Manual in consequence of his order.

(5) *Extension of the Sub-Divisional system.*—The Government consider that no Deputy Commissioner should, as a rule, be in direct charge of taluks and the Revenue Commissioner is requested to submit proposals for the extension of the Sub-Divisional system to the taluks now in the direct charge of Deputy Commissioners.

(6) *Residence of the Sub-Divisional Officers within their Sub-Divisions.*—The Government agree with the Revenue Commissioner that Sub-Divisional Officers should ordinarily reside within their Sub-Divisions. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to submit proposals wherever such a change is feasible.

L. KRISHNA RAO,
Offg. Secy. to Govt., Rev. Dept.

To—The Revenue Commissioner in Mysore.
The Comptroller, Mysore Government.
The Superintendent of Revenue Survey and Settlements in Mysore.
The other Heads of Departments.
The Secretaries to Government.
The Deputy Commissioners of Districts.

PRESS TABLE.